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WEBSTER'S III  
New Riverside  
University  
Dictionary

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All correspondence and inquiries should be directed to  
Reference Division, Houghton Mifflin Company  
One Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108

**Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data**  
Main entry under title:

Webster's II new Riverside university dictionary.

I. English language—Dictionaries. I. Riverside Publishing Company. II. Title: Webster's two new Riverside university dictionary. III. Title: Webster's 2 new Riverside university dictionary.

PE1625.W244 1984 423 83-3799  
ISBN: 0-395-33957-X (thumb index, trade edition)  
0-395-37928-8 (high school edition)

Manufactured in the United States of America

Lexical and Electronic Index .....
Preface .....
Noah Webster and American English .....
Explanatory Diagram: Meanings .....
Explanatory Notes .....
A Concise Guide to Style .....
Style Guide .....
Problems in English Usage .....
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dilater • dinar

**dilat'er** (di-lā'tor, di-lā'tor, di-lā'tor) *n. var. of DILATOR.*

**dilat'ive** (di-lā'tiv) *n.* 1. Causing or producing dilation. 2. Tending to dilate.

**dil'a-tom'e-ter** (di-lā-tōmē'tor, di-lā'tor) *n. [DILATE + -METER.] An instrument for measuring thermal expansion in solids, liquids, and gases.* —**dil'a-tom'et'ric** (-tōmē'trik) *adj.* —**dil'a-tom'etry** *n.*

**dil'a-tor** also **dilat'er** (di-lā'tor, di-lā'tor, di-lā'tor) or **dil'a-ta-tor** (di-lā-tā'tor, di-lā'tor) *n. Something that dilates an object or organ, esp. a muscle, surgical instrument, or drug that produces dilation.*

**dil'a-to-ry** (di-lā-tōrē, -tōrē) *adj.* [ME *dilatorie* < Lat. *dilatorius* < *dilator*, *delayer* < *dilatus*, p. part. of *differre*, to delay. —see DIFFER.]

1. Tending or meant to delay. 2. Marked by procrastination <*dilatory study habits*>. 3. Proceeding at an undesirably slow rate. —**dil'a-to-ri'ly** *adv.* —**dil'a-to-ri'ness** *n.*

**dilem'ma** (di-lēm'ma, di-) *n. [Lat. < Gk. *dilemma*, ambiguous proposition : *di-*, two + *lēmma*, proposition.]* 1. a. A situation that requires a choice between two evenly balanced alternatives. b. A predicament that apparently defies satisfactory solution. *usage:* Traditionally *dilemma* has been applied to a situation in which there is a choice between evenly balanced alternatives, both of which are usu. unpleasant. The use of *dilemma* as a synonym for problem or *predicament*, although still unacceptable to some, is a practice currently widespread in all contexts. 2. Logic. An argument in which a choice of two or more alternatives, each being conclusive and fatal, is presented to an antagonist. —**dil'e-mat'ic** (di-lē-mātik) *adj.*

**dil'e-tante** (di-lē-tānt', -tānt', -tānt', -tānt', di-lē-tānt') *n. pl.*

*-tantes or -tan-ti* (-tānt', -tānt') [*Ital.*, lover of the arts, pr. part. of *dilettare*, to delight < Lat. *delectare*. —see DELIGHT.] 1. One superficially interested in the arts or in a branch of knowledge: *AMATEUR*.

2. A lover of the fine arts: *CONNOISSEUR*. —*adj.* Superficial or amateurish. —**dil'e-tan'tish** *adj.* —**dil'e-tan'tion** *n.*

**dil'i-gence<sup>1</sup>** (di-lē-jəns) *n. [ME < OFr. < Lat. *diligentia* < pr. part. of *diligere*, to esteem. —see DILIGENT.]* 1. Persistent application to one's work: assiduous effort. 2. Careful attention.

**dil'i-gence<sup>2</sup>** (di-lē-jāns, di-lē-hāns') *n. [Fr. < *diligence*, speed < *diligent*, diligent.] A large public stagecoach.*

**dil'i-gent** (di-lē-jānt) *adj.* [ME < OFr. < Lat. *diligens*, pr. part. of *diligere*, to esteem, love : *dis-*, apart + *leger*, to choose.] Marked by persevering, painstaking effort: *ASSIDUOUS*. —**dil'i-gent'ly** *adv.*

**dill** (dil) *n. [ME *dile* < OE.]* 1. An aromatic herb indigenous to the Old World, *Anethum graveolens*, bearing finely dissected leaves and small yellow flowers. 2. The leaves or seeds of the dill plant, used as seasoning.

**dill pickle** *n. A pickled cucumber flavored with dill.*

**dilly** (dil'ē) *n., pl. -ties. [Obs. *dilly*, delightful < DELIGHTFUL.]*

*Slang. One that is remarkable or extraordinary <a dilly of a show>*

**dilly bag** *n. [< *dilli*, native word in Australia.] A bag or basket woven of rushes or bark, used in Australia.*

**dilly-dally** (dil'ē-däl'ē) *vi. -lied, -ly-ing, -lies. [Redup. of DALLY.]* 1. To waste time. 2. To vacillate. —**dilly-dal'li-e** *n.*

**dil'u-ent** (di-lē-yō-ant) *adj.* [Lat. *diluēns*, *diluent*, pr. part. of *diluere*, to dilute.] Capable of diluting. —*n.* A substance used to dilute.

**dil'u-te** (di-lōōt', di-) *vt. -uted, -lut-ing, -utes. [Lat. *diluere*, dilut- : *dis-*, apart + *lavere*, to wash.]* 1. To thin or reduce the concentration of <dilute a solution>. 2. To reduce the potency, strength, purity, or brilliance of by or as if by admixture. —*adj.* Reduced in strength: *DILUTED*. —**dil'ut'er** *n.*

\* **syns:** DILUTE, CUT, THIN, WATER DOWN, WEAKEN *v. core meaning*: to lessen the strength of by or as if by admixture < *dilute* whiskey with a splash of soda>< *dilute* a report with trivia>

**dilu'tion** (di-lōō-shān, di-) *n.* 1. a. The process of diluting. b. A dilute or weakened condition. 2. A diluted substance.

**dilu'vi-al** (di-lōō-vē-äl) also **dilu'vi-an** (-ən) *adj. [LLat. *diluvialis* < Lat. *diluvium*, flood < *diluēre*, to dilute.] Of or produced by a flood.*

**dim** (dim) *adj. dim'mer, dim'mest. [ME < OE *dimm*.]* 1. a. Lacking brightness. b. Shedding minimal light: FAINT. c. Negative or pessimistic <taking a dim view of the future>. 2. Lacking brightness or luster: DULL. 3. Lacking distinctness: OBSCURE. 4. Lacking sharpness or clarity of understanding: STUPID. 5. Lacking keenness or vigor. —*v. dimmed, dim'ming, dims.* —*vt.* 1. To make dim. 2. To put (headlights) on low beam. —*vi.* To become dim. —*pl.n. dims.* The parking lights on an automobile. —**dim'ly** *adv.* —**dim'ness** *n.*

**dime** (dim) *n. [ME, tenth part < OFr. < Lat. *decima* (pars), tenth (part) < *decem*, ten.] A U.S. coin worth ten cents.*

**di-men'hy-drin** (di-mēn-hī'drī-nāt') *n. [DIME(THYL) + (AMI)N(E) + HYDR(O)- + -IN + -ATE.] An antihistamine, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>ClN<sub>3</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, used to treat motion sickness and allergies.*

**dime novel** *n. A usu. paperbound melodramatic novel. —**dime** novelist *n.**

**di-men'sion** (di-mēn'shān, di-) *n. [ME *dimension* < OFr. *dimension* < Lat. *dimensio*, extent < *dimensus*, p. part. of *dimetiri*, to measure : *dis-* (intensive) + *metri*, to measure.]* 1. A measure of spatial extent, esp. width, height, or length. 2. often **dimensions**. Scope or magnitude: EXTENT. 3. Math. a. Any of the least number of independent coordinates required to specify point in space uniquely. b. The range of any of these coordinates. 4. Physics. A physical property, often mass, length, time, or a combination thereof, regarded as

a fundamental measure or as one of a set of fundamental measures of a physical quantity. —*vt. -sioned, -sioning, -siona.* To cut to specified dimensions. —**di-men'sional** *adj.* —**di-men'sional'ity** (-shā-nāl'itē) *n.* —**di-men'sional'ly** *adv.*

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